



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/810,489	03/19/2001	Atsushi Tomita	032360-010	8259

7590 04/30/2008
Platon N. Mandros
BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.
P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, VA 22313-1404

EXAMINER

SALAD, ABDULLAHI ELM I

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2157

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
-----------	---------------

04/30/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/810,489	Applicant(s) TOMITA, ATSUSHI	
	Examiner Salad Abdullahi	Art Unit 2157	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 February 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 8-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 5, 9-11, 13 and 15 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6, 8, 12, 14, and 16-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response

1. The response filed on 2/4/2008 has been received and made of record.
2. Applicant's argument with respect claims 1-4, 6, 8, 12, and 14, 16-18 have been fully considered but are not for the following reason(s)
3. Claims 5, 9-11, 13 and 15 are allowed.

Applicant alleges Miyawaki does not disclose "transmitting management information about a second image forming apparatus for forming an image on a sheet, which is independent from the first image forming apparatus, together with the trouble information about the first image forming apparatus to the centralized management apparatus".

Examiner respectfully disagrees because Miyawaki discloses "transmitting management information about a second image forming apparatus for forming an image on a sheet, which is independent from the first image forming apparatus, together with the trouble information about the first image forming apparatus to the centralized management apparatus" [see figs 1, 14-15, and col. 14, lines 15-57, where the data communication apparatus 200 transmits troubles that occur on the plurality of the image forming apparatus 100, where an urgent trouble may be transmitted with a management information such as no-urgent troubles that occur on the image forming apparatus 100).

For example Miyawaki discloses each of the trouble informing devices includes a trouble classifying device which classifies reasons or causes why the trouble has occurred in a particular image forming apparatus, and plurality of types of data are sent

from each of the image forming apparatus 100-1 through 100-5 to the central control apparatus 400 via the data communication apparatus 200.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-4, 6, 8, 12 and 14, 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Miyawaki U.S. Patent No. 6,032,001[hereinafter Miyawaki].

As per claims 1, 12 and 14, Miyawaki discloses an equipment management apparatus (200) for transmitting management information collected from a plurality of equipment (copier 100-1 to copier 100-5) to a centralized management apparatus (central controlling 400), comprising:

a detector(sensor) for detecting a trouble which has occurred in a first (100-1)[each of the image forming image forming apparatus for forming an image on a sheet apparatuses includes a trouble sensor for sensing causes of trouble which may occur during an operation of the image forming apparatus] (see fig. 1 and col. 2, lines 21-30);and

a transmission controller (200) for, when the trouble is detected by the detector, transmitting management information about a second image forming apparatus for

forming an image on a sheet which is independent from the first image forming apparatus together with the trouble information about the first equipment to the centralized management apparatus (computer 400) [see figs 1, 14-15, and col. 14, lines 15-57, where the data communication apparatus 200 transmits troubles that occur on the plurality of the image forming apparatus 100, where an urgent trouble may be transmitted with a management information such as no-urgent troubles that occur on the image forming apparatus 100).

As per claim 2, Miyawaki discloses an equipment management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the transmission controller responds to the detection of the trouble by the detector, and obtains the management information from the second (see col. 14, lines 15-57).

As per claim 3, Kageyama discloses an equipment management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the transmission controller transmits management information about a plurality of equipment including the second equipment (see fig. 1 and see paragraph 0088-0091)

As per claim 4, Miyawaki discloses an equipment management apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising a selector for selecting the second equipment among the plurality of equipment based on a specified condition (see col. 14, lines 15-57).

As per claim 6, Kageyama discloses an equipment management apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the specified condition is characteristics of each of the equipment, and the selector selects the second equipment based on the characteristics of each of the equipment (see col. 14, lines 15-57).

As per claim 8, Kageyama discloses an equipment management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the equipment is an image forming apparatus for forming an image on a sheet (see col. 14, lines 15-57).

As per claims 16-18, Kageyama discloses an equipment apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the equipment management apparatus is independently connected to first image to the first image forming apparatus and second image forming apparatus (see fig. 1).

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Salad E Abdullahi whose telephone number is 571-272-4009. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 5:00. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached 571-272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **571-273-8300**.

7. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Salad Abdullahi/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2157

Application/Control Number: 09/810,489
Art Unit: 2157

Page 7